

WEARE SAW MILL
HAMPTON FALLS, N. H.

MILL PARTS
New Hampshire

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N. H.
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PHOTOGRAPHS AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Hampshire

Historic American Buildings Survey
EUGENE W. Clark, Deputy Officer
Durham, New Hampshire

Original owner - James Weir
Present owner - John Weir.

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N.H.

Hampton Falls
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THE WEARE SAW MILL
Hampton Falls N.H.

The industries of pioneering America were many and various depending on the locality. New England, particularly New Hampshire held a very high rank in the commercial history of our country with her many saw and grist mills. The shipping of Lumber cut from these mills to Europe comprised a large source of commerce for the colonists. Many interesting stories can be found telling of England's attempt to regulate the outting of the so called King's Lumber by these mills.

In some of our early newspaper advertisements can be found promising mill sites to those men who would come to a certain town to settle. Part of the wealth of an early town was judged by the number of mill sites it prided. Towns were often located along streams where good mill sites were available.

The up and down saw mill played an important part in architectural development, giving the builders the use of boards, replacing the hewn log. Prior to this all boards were cut by the laborious Pit-Saw Method.

And so the Weare Saw Mill located on the Hampton Falls River in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire was one of those combined saw and grist mills of an early age. It is thought that the mill, which this book shows pictures of was built in 1840. The mill consisted of two floors with the grist mill on the bottom floor and the saw mill

on the top floor. Probably due to a more modern method of grinding corn the grist mill was discontinued in 1887. It is claimed by a man who worked in the mill that it could saw two thousand feet of timber in a ten hour day, being operated by a man and a boy. This is equivalent to about eighty boards. The mill could cut any log not longer than twenty eight feet.

There can be little doubt but that an earlier mill of heavier construction was located on this site before the mill which this book shows photographs of. Evidence has been found of this in two pieces of machinery. An iron eye of an early character and the end of a feed-arm suggesting a type of machinery used only in earlier mills were found at the site.

Water power was provided by damming up the streams and forming the mill pond. At the Weare Mill all excess water flowed over a stone sluiceway at the side of the mill. This wall is of exceptionally fine craftsmanship and probably one of the best examples of a dry stone wall in New Hampshire. Some of the huge stones in the wall are over five feet in diameter. The wall although built at a very early date still stands in very good condition.

Nothing else remains at the site but this fine wall, smaller bearing walls and a stone abutment used to roll logs up into the mill on. The mill was totally destroyed by flooding water in 1935.

With one exception there is not an up and down saw mill in New Hampshire and probably few in all New England. Only the sites with their fine stone walls remain to remind future generations of AMERICA'S age of saw and grist mills.

Raymond W. Dyer, N.Y.A.